

Exposing nature: a guide to wildlife photography

by Frank Greenaway

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This book is a wonderful guide on how to approach photography with a view to reproduction and enlargement. For those people such as gifted amateurs and dedicated recorders of wildlife or landscapes for their own use, it is a guide to what can be aspired to if ever they had the time or patience.

The detailed and informative text begins with the need to recognise the purpose of the camera holder for taking photos. This is followed by the recommendation to have a complete knowledge of your subject so that its behaviour in its natural environment can be predicted with ease, improving the chances of taking a better photograph.

There is a section on the ethics of nature photography, and the message here – oft repeated throughout the book – is that the consideration of causing danger and disturbance to shy animals in their habitat should rank above the human need to take photographs of these species in the wild. The subject should not feel threatened by a human presence in its habitat. Where this is not possible, the techniques that can be employed, from simply disguising the camera to the equipment and set-ups required for remote operation, are discussed.

There are sections on selection of equipment, advice on lenses, flash equipment, tripods, bags and projectors as well as a useful section on autofocus, apertures and shutter speeds. There is a very helpful comparison of film and digital and even some advice on getting the most out of your compact digital camera.

Then there are the photos, a mouth-watering display of expert capability, that makes one wish to have the time and patience to achieve such rewarding outcomes. There are separate chapters for birds; mammals; reptiles and amphibians; insects and other invertebrates; water; plants; and habitats. Some problems specific to each section are discussed, such as



planning a trip abroad for photographing mammals; background problems with insects; coping with reflections with water photography.

I particularly like the mammal photos, many shot at night and triggered by the animal breaking an infrared light beam. These include many examples of bats on the wing and a stunning montage of four different animals (two cats, one fox and one dog) caught passing along a regular pathway in a backyard.

This is a most enjoyable book, best suited to those readers who want to be professional wildlife photographers.

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